While the invention has been described in complete detail and pictorially shown in the accompanying drawings it is not to be limited to such details, since many changes and modifications may be made to the invention without departing from the spirit and scope thereof. For example, the illuminated sign may be made in a rectangular or circular shape. The sign **10** is also adaptable for use on store fronts and the battery can be easily replaced by an electronic power supply when space is not a problem. Alternatively, the indicia stencil **26** may be affixed by means of an adhesive, directly to the upper surface of the encapsulating film **24** or the indicia on the stencil may be printed directly on the surface of the encapsulating film **24**. Thus the need for the sign protective cover **28** is eliminated. Hence, it is described to cover any and all modifications and forms which may come within the language and scope of the claims.

We claim:

1. An illuminated sign comprising:

a) an electroluminescent lamp comprising a laminated structure having from bottom-to-top a flexible substrate, a conductive film, a phosphor coating, a transparent conductive film and an open-ended conductive trace where said structure is encapsulated within an encapsulated film and with said structure having a first electrode connected to the open-ended conductive trace and a second electrode connected to the conductive film,

b) an indicia stencil attached to the upper surface of said electroluminescent lamp,

c) a d-c power source, and

d) an inverter having its input connected to said d-c power source and its output connected to the first and second electrodes on said electroluminescent lamp.

2. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **1** wherein said electroluminescent lamp further comprises a clear sign protective cover that is sized to completely cover said lamp and having an opening on one side that allows said indicia stencil to be slipped inside.

3. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **1** wherein said illuminated sign is in a rectangular shape.

4. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **1** wherein said illuminated sign is in a circular shape.

5. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **1** wherein said phosphor coating can be tinted to provide a plurality of luminescent colors.

6. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **1** wherein said d-c power source consists of a battery.

7. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **1** wherein said inverter is packaged in a thin enclosure.

8. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **1** further comprising a receptacle attached by a cable assembly to the first and second electrodes on said electroluminescent lamp.

9. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **8** further comprising a plug attached by a cable assembly to the output of said inverter where said plug is configured to mate with said receptacle.

10. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **1** further comprising a power switch connected in series between one input terminal of said inverter and one terminal on said battery.

11. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **1** wherein said illuminated sign is attached to an article of clothing.

12. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **11** wherein said article of clothing comprises a jacket.

13. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **11** wherein said article of clothing comprises a cap.

14. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **1** wherein said illuminated sign is attached to a rigid structure such as found on vehicles.

15. An illuminated sign comprising:

a) an electroluminescent lamp comprising a laminated structure having from bottom-to-top a flexible substrate, a conductive film, a phosphor coating, a transparent conductive film and an open-ended conductive trace where said structure is encapsulated within an encapsulated film and with said structure having a first electrode connected to the open-ended conductive trace and a second electrode connected to the conductive film,

b) an indicia stencil attached to the upper surface of said electroluminescent lamp,

c) a clear sign protection cover that is sized to completely cover said luminescent lamp and having an opening on one side that allows said indicia stencil to be slipped inside,

d) a receptacle connected by means of a two-wire cable assembly to the first and second electrodes on said electroluminescent lamp,

e) a power switch consisting of a single-pole single-throw switch,

f) a 9-volt battery,

g) an inverter having a two-terminal input and a two-terminal output where one of the inputs is connected to one side of said power switch where other side of said switch is connected to one of the terminals on said battery where other terminal of said battery is connected to the other input terminal of said inverter, and where the output of said inverter is connected to a plug, via a cable assembly, where said plug is configured to mate with said receptacle, and

h) said illuminated sign is attached to either the front or back of an article of clothing with said indicia facing outwardly and where said battery switch and inverter are located, out-of-view within said clothing.

16. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **15** wherein said article of clothing comprises of a jacket.

17. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **15** wherein said article of clothing comprises a cap.

18. The illuminated sign as specified in claim **15** wherein said indicia stencil is affixed directly to the upper surface of the encapsulating film by means of an adhesive.

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